Payment of Compensation to Hijack Victims

1224. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:—

(a) the steps Government taken to ensure the safety of air passengers after the incident of recent hijacking of IAC flight in December, 1999;

(b) whether Government have since given any compensation to the next of the kin of the person who was killed by the hijacker and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any compensation has been given to other passnegers who suffered great tension for a number of days in the hijacked plane and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The following measures have been taken for the safety of the air passengers after the incident of hijacking of IAC flight in December, 1995;

(i) Deployment of Central Insustrial Security Force (CISF) personnel in place of State Police for security duties at the operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF has already taken over security duties at Patna, Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara and Port Blair airports.

(ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry of sterile area has been tightened. Ladder point secondary frisking has been introduced.

(iii) Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured be comprehensive review of photo-identity cards to restrict the number of pass holders and banning of entry of the visitors upto 31.3.2000.

(iv) Deployment of sky marshals on flights at random basis as an added safety precaution.

(v) Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

(vi) Replacement of old X-Ray machines and installation of new colour X-Ray machines wherever necessary so as to ensure that at least 2 X-Ray machines are available at every point.

(vii) Modernization and upgradation of secuirty related technological set up of the airports is being done in a phased manner.

(b) As admissible under the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, a compensation of Rs. 8.70 lacs has been paid by Indian Airlines to the next of the kin of the deceased passenger.

(c) There is no provision under the Carriage By Air Act, 1972 for compensation for tension/mental agony.

Aircraft Purchase Programme of IA

1225. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Government have decided to inject fresh capital of Rs. 125 crore and provide Rs. 325 crore as margin money for the aircraft purchase programme of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these decisions are to be implemented in view of the Government's decision to privatise the Indian Airlines; and if so,the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Government has decided on equity infusion of Rs. 325 crores in Indian Airlines in the form of margin money towards purchase/replacement of aircraft.

(c) The Government's decision has not been modified.

International Airport in Punjab

1226. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of an International Airport project in Punjab; and

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Public Investment Board considered the proposal in August, 1999, but did not find the Internal Rate of Return, to be adequate.

(b) Does not arise.